

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below. This version of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims.

1-21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) An elastic thermally bonded nonwoven web consisting essentially of polypropylene fibers, which has an elasticity in the cross direction of

at least 70% recovery from a 100% elongation, and

at least 60% recovery from a 150% elongation, and which has a ratio of elongation at break in the cross direction to the elongation at break in the machine direction of at least 8,

wherein the elasticity of the nonwoven web is imparted by a process comprising the following steps:

(a) providing a thermally bonded nonwoven precursor web consisting essentially of polypropylene fibers; and

(b) subjecting the precursor web of step (a) to a drawing treatment in a machine direction at a drawing rate of from 45 to 70 %, and a strain rate within a range of from 1000 to 2400 %/min at a temperature between the softening point and the melting point of the fibers for preparing the elastic thermally bonded nonwoven web,

wherein the polypropylene fibers consist essentially of polypropylene that is homogeneous in the cross-section in the solid state.

23. (Previously Presented) The elastic nonwoven web according to claim 22, made from a nonwoven precursor selected from the group consisting of carded, spunbond, SMS, and SMMS, and wherein the elastic nonwoven web is heated and drawn in the longitudinal direction over a 6-10 meter distance at a speed range of 150m/min to 400m/min to reduce 50% to 65% the width of its precursor, wherein the drawing is made by feeding the web through a heating device

installed between the unwinder roll and the winding roll to heat up the web in the temperature between the softening temperature and melting temperature of the thermoplastic fibers and by spontaneously increasing the speed of the winding roll over the unwinder roll at least 45% to maintain the strain rate in the range of 1000% to 2400% per minute, whereby the elastic nonwoven web is characterized by the elasticity of at least 70% recovery from a 100% elongation, or 60% recovery from a 150% elongation, in the cross direction.

24-25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously Presented) An elastic laminate comprising:

- (a) the elastic nonwoven web of claim 22; and
- (b) a stretchable substrate bonded to the elastic nonwoven web.

27. (Previously Presented) The elastic laminate of claim 26 wherein the substrate is an elastomeric layer.

28. (Previously Presented) The elastic laminate of claim 26 wherein the substrate is a film.

29-33. (Canceled).

34. (Previously Presented) An article containing an elastic nonwoven web according to claim 22.

35. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 34, which is a disposable product selected from the group consisting of a sanitary protection product, a medical product, a protective work-wear or and a personal use item.

36. (Previously Presented) The article according claim 35, wherein the disposable product is an adult or infant diaper, or a sanitary napkin.

37. (Previously Presented) The article according claim 35, wherein the medical product is a mask, an operating gown, a head cover, or an operating drape.

38. (Previously Presented) The article according claim 35, wherein the protective work-wear is a coverall, a head cover or mask.

39. (Previously Presented) The article according claim 35, wherein the personal use item is underwear.

40-41. (Canceled).